

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

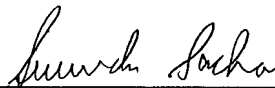
By the present Preliminary Amendment the specification is amended to correct minor informalities. A new Abstract believed to be in more proper format under United States practice is submitted herein. The changes to the specification are not believed to raise any issues of new matter.

Claim 1 is also amended by the present response to incorporate certain limitations from dependent claims 4-6, and accordingly dependent claims 4-6 are canceled without prejudice.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



---

Gregory J. Maier  
Registration No. 25,599  
Surinder Sachar  
Registration No. 34,423  
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
GJM/SNS:sjh  
I:\ATTY\SNS\292410US-PR.DOC